

INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL
COMMITTEE MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

RECORDER: Barbara Ferreira

DATE: May 17, 2001

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT POINTS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond M. Peterson, M.D., Chair; Patricia Aguiar, DSS; Valerie Charlton, M.D., DHS; Arleen Downing, M.D., Walter Olsen, Jr., Ed.D., CDE; Marie Kanne Poulsen, Ph.D., Martha Sanchez, Cheri Schoenborn, DDS; and Patty Moore, FRC/N-CA

Introductions & Announcements:

ICC members and persons in the audience provided self-introductions. Dr. Peterson announced the appointment of Terry Colborn of Easter Seals of Superior California, as a new community representative to the Family Support Services Committee. Cheri Schoenborn introduced Debby Reath who is the new DDS liaison for the San Diego area.

Dr. Peterson reported that the May Revision to the Governor's Budget was released on May 14th. He noted that the proposed increase in funding to regional centers for clinical staff to address the need for timely evaluation and assessment was no longer in the Budget.

Discussion on Foster Care Issues:

Pat Aguiar, Chief of the Foster Care Branch and the Department of Social Services' (DSS) representative to the ICC, reported on the Stakeholders Summit held on May 9 – 11, 2001, in Anaheim. The Stakeholders have been charged with the duties of reviewing, reforming and revising Child Welfare Services in California. Child Welfare Services include prevention, early intervention, child protective services, foster care, independent living, kinship care and institutional care. DSS has identified a core of 60 Stakeholders representing every service interest across the state and also includes youth representatives with actual Foster Care experience. A recently released report focused on social worker caseloads and the impact it has on their ability to do their job. It is documented that caseloads are at least twice, or more than twice, what they should be. The Stakeholders Summit provided a forum for 550 individuals to come together for a working session and to provide input on what needs to be improved for Child Welfare Services. Ms. Aguiar stated, "the basic technology is the relationship between the provider of services and the family and how critical that relationship is in helping families to change."

During the first year, the four Stakeholders Committees focused on the following major areas: **The Human Resources Committee** addressed caseload issues by addressing what kinds of disciplines can provide the kinds of services for families; and how can the providers of services be supported. The report from this committee is due to the Legislature by the end of May 2001.

The Flexible Funding Committee concentrated on all the various innovative programs and funding streams that are not, yet should be connected. They have compiled a manual describing the various funding streams and are also addressing what is allowable and what is not in order to improve the funding of services.

The Rules and Regulations Committee is reviewing all the regulations that dictate what a social worker does at the county level. Rules and regulations are being reviewed with the intent to get the “family” back into the Foster Family Licensing Standards. A similar review will be conducted on the rules and regulations for group homes, foster family agencies and adoptions. They are identifying barriers and solutions.

The Courts Committee is reviewing alternative dispute resolutions.

The full Summit Report will be available for distribution in the near future. The goal of this project is for every child in California to live in a safe and healthy home.

Dr. Peterson acknowledged the collaborative efforts in San Diego Regional to address the service needs of children in foster care. A “medical passport” was developed through Children’s Hospital and the San Diego County Department of Social Services to address the problem of obtaining and sharing medical records of children in foster care. He stated a major issue for the regional center is that about 60% of the intake of new regional center consumers is in the birth to three population, which is about 100 new children, under the age of three, referred to the regional center per month. This significantly impacts the need for hiring and training staff.

Jim Cleveland and Nina Garrett of San Diego Regional Center (SDRC) reported on the Developmental Screening Evaluation Project that began approximately three years ago. The Project has participants representing every agency that has association with children. Recently, eight public health nurses were assigned to the project through the County Department of Social Services. Approximately 35-40 participants attend the Project meetings held every other month. A smaller work group meets to discuss what the issues and barriers are for serving the children coming through the Polinsky Center and also to develop solutions. Some of the issues identified were how to deal with the child exposed to trauma, location of the child, developing the IFSP, and providing early intervention services in natural environments. A MARRT (Multi-Agency Referral and Review Team) has been established with participation from representative of the local education agencies, SDRC Early Start Intake Management, Public Health, the Polinsky Center and Family Resource Centers. This team designated a liaison from each agency and tracks all referrals to make sure no one gets lost in the multi-entry system. A consent form to release information has been developed for use by both the regional center and the Polinsky Center. Cross training is provided between the various agencies.

All in attendance discussed the value of the collaboration activities presented by San Diego as well as the information presented at the two prior ICC meetings. The activities address many of the issues and concerns that have been identified statewide. Laurie Jordan provided valuable input and insight of being a foster parent and how important it is that agencies collaborate and provide optimal support to foster parents. It was decided that an ad hoc committee be established to develop a document with recommendations for Foster Care/Early Start improvements. This document will be presented to the ICC at the next meeting as an Action Item for the ICC to consider sending it to the Department of Developmental Services, with copies to the other state agencies participating on the ICC, as advice for improving the collaboration between Foster Care and Early Start.

Discussion on ICC Membership:

The importance of the active participation by the Department of Mental Health was noted. Cheri Schoenborn reported that she had talked to Dave Neilsen, Chief of Children's Programs in DMH, and he has assured that a representative will be attending ICC meetings. Dr. Peterson has also talked to DMH Director, Steve Mayberg's office about this. It is anticipated that someone will be designated as the DMH representative by the July meeting. The status of new Governor appointments to the Council was also discussed. There needs to be a representative from the Legislature, Early Head Start, child care and additional parents. The Department of Insurance may not be the most appropriate representative concerning health insurance coverage of children. Dr. Peterson will contact Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) to ask for a representative to attend the ICC Meetings.

Future Agenda

It was agreed to that we would have a presentation and discussion on child care issues as well as a discussion on the draft recommendations from the ad hoc committee on foster care during the July Committee of the Whole. A presentation from the MIND Institute will be requested for the Friday general session.

Agenda Review

Committee chairs reviewed the May 17th agendas. The Family Support Services Committee and the Quality Assurance and Personnel and Program Standards Committee will not be meeting in a combined session as originally scheduled.